



Resource Protection Initiative



\$ 131.1 Million in FY 2000

Development is posing an increasing threat to marine life and their habitat. The number of species either listed by NOAA under the Endangered Species Act or under consideration for listing is growing. Stemming this crisis of extinction is one of NOAA's greatest challenges. NOAA is committed to preventing the extinction of at-risk marine species, and restoring their habitat and ecosystems. Our ongoing efforts to protect and conserve our natural resources include establishing greater public involvement in conservation planning, creating incentives for landowners and states to protect species and their habitat in order to prevent the need to list, and entering into long-term conservation plans with landowners.

Endangered Species Act Recovery Planning (\$27.5 M)

Protecting the most highly endangered species is a key piece of NOAA's effort to prevent the extinction of species. For FY 2000, NOAA is requesting a net increase of \$27.5 million for Endangered Species Act (ESA) Recovery Planning to stem the decline of highly endangered species including Atlantic and Pacific Salmon, leatherback and loggerhead turtles, Hawaiian monk seals, and North Atlantic right whales. The North Atlantic right whale is one of the most highly endangered mammals on earth. ESA planning efforts to protect the right whale, Pacific Salmon, and other species will include: protecting and restoring critical habitat; eliminating incidental take in commercial fisheries and conducting research and monitoring to determine species status and habitat requirements.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Conservation Fund (\$100 M)

The fiscal year 2000 budget bolsters salmon recovery through a new partnership agreement establishing a Pacific Salmon Conservation fund to share salmon restoration costs that will double the President's \$100.0 million in federal dollars with matching non-federal contributions. The Presidential initiative focuses on improving federal conservation activities and building crucial federal-state-tribal partnerships to share limited resources while improving scientific information to ensure a lasting recovery of salmon. Many salmon runs are at risk of extinction or endangerment in the Western states of California, Oregon, Washington. The Fund would also expand conservation of salmon runs in Alaska.

Protected Species Management: Conserving Ocean Biodiversity (\$2.6 M)

Protecting biodiversity is essential to the successful protection and recovery of at-risk species. NOAA is requesting \$2.6 million in FY 2000 to characterize and map biodiversity and protected species habitat. These efforts will permit the identification of crucial habitat for the conservation of at-risk species and will identify increased conservation efforts under the ESA. These funds will provide matching challenge grants to local entities for the conservation and restoration of significant biodiversity sites.

Enforcement and Surveillance (\$1.0 M)

Ensuring adequate compliance with the nation's fishery regulations is essential for the continuing effectiveness of NOAA's fishery conservation and management programs. NOAA is requesting an increase of \$1.0 million to strengthen the ability to work with the states, the U.S. Coast Guard, and other entities to maintain and increase regulatory compliance. This increased capability will subsequently complement and support other key components of the Resource Protection Initiative through enhanced Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving (COPPS) strategies and further development of Vessel Management System technology.

NOAA FY 2000 Budget Breakout of Resource Protection Initiative Investments

	FY 2000 Change	Resource Protection Investment
National Marine Fisheries Service		
<i>Conservation and Management Operations</i>		
Endangered Species Act Recovery Planning	\$ 27.5	ESA Recovery Planning
Protected Species Management Program	\$ 2.6	Conserving Ocean Biodiversity
Enforcement and Surveillance	\$ 1.0	Enforcement and Surveillance
<i>Other Accounts</i>		
Pacific Coastal Salmon Conservation Fund	\$100.0	Pacific Coastal Salmon Conservation Fund
NOAA Protected Resources Initiative - - Total	\$131.1	(dollars in millions)

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